

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



Pine Trees Dying.
From Amelia County: "I hope that you can help me save a strip of pines. One or two were cut in the spring, and since then the pines around that spot have been turning yellow and dying. I can hear the borers at work and the under bark honeycombed with borers. Is there any way to save these still living?" The damage was doubtless done when the trees were cut last spring, and the top brush left and the borers bred from this.

The only thing I can suggest is to cut out all the diseased trees, and clean out all brush and burn the whole. Leaving a cut pine leaning against the living trees will always start the borers, and leaving the top brush in the woods will have the same effect. Clean out all the sick trees and burn, and it may check the insects.

Root Lice.

"You say that tobacco stems or dust will keep the root lice from corn or cotton. Please tell me where to get the stems or dust? You can easily get them from any of the large smoking tobacco factories in Richmond, or the various manufacturing tobacco towns in North Carolina. When I was in Raleigh, N. C., I got from the American Tobacco Company factory at Durham, but you can easily get them in Richmond, I suppose. Some years ago the dust was sold at \$12 a ton. What the price is now I do not know, as I have not bought any recently. Stems can usually be had for less money per ton.

Bearded and Bald Wheat.

"I would like to have your opinion and experience on the difference in cropping value of bearded and bald wheat. Some claim that the bearded wheats are better than the beardless varieties. What little experience I have had with bearded wheat seemed to show that it is rather more prolific than the beardless, but I would like more information on this line." I do not think that the wheat varieties with awns or beard are more productive than awnless heads. In fact, in a perfectly favorable season I know several varieties of awnless wheat that will make heavier crops than the bearded varieties. In my experience the difference is mainly in the greater safety of the bearded wheats in unfavorable weather. Heavy rains when the wheat is blooming will often damage the bald-headed wheat while doing little harm to the bearded ones. Then, too, the red and white wheats usually have a straw that will stand up better than that of the white bald-headed wheat, and there is far less lodging. When I was in Maryland, the only wheat grown in the State was the old Blue-stem white wheat. This was an awnless or bald wheat, but it has retired from cultivation, and I think that its gradual failure was due more to the failure to properly cultivate the seed than anything else. The Blue-stem variety quite similar and evidently bred from the Blue-stem, called the Broughton, was popular in this too, has disappeared, and in the best wheat growing sections we find the Mediterranean and the old dark red Mediterranean has improved in cultivation in Virginia and Maryland into a brighter amber wheat that is now largely grown than any other. Every variety of wheat can be kept up to a higher state of production by the careful selection of seed, and the sowing of only the heaviest grain, as I have tried to show in the practice of one of the best seed breeders in Maryland.

Another advantage in the Mediterranean strains of wheat is that they are to some extent less liable to rust than the bald-headed white wheats, and this of course is a great advantage, since the prevalence of rust is always followed by shrunken grain. The general practice of all wheat growers in using the bearded varieties shows that there has been found an advantage in using them rather than the varieties without beard or awns, and this has been the result of long experience on the part of the growers.

The last crop of the old Blue-stem white wheat that I saw was the first year after the Civil War. It made an enormous growth of straw, but the heads were so badly blighted by rain in the blooming stage that the crop was very small and dropped it for ever. A few years later, in Fallow County, Maryland, Mr. Goldsboro made the famous yield with this wheat of sixty-four and a half bushels an acre, and many large crops were made in the upper portion of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, when the Blue-stem was in its prime. It has been a good many years since I was engaged in wheat growing on a large scale, but I have watched the gradual change, and have noted that the heads of the bald-headed wheats are green, and less of the experience and practice of so many wheat growers is evidence that the bearded wheats are safer and better in an average than the bald-headed varieties. My last wheat growing was with the Fallowster, when I found very good. But this, too, seems now less green, and other varieties are taking its place.

Wheat Prices.

From Hanover: "I read your article appearing in The Times-Dispatch with a great deal of interest, and I think that the information furnished the farmers will be of great value and benefit to them. Will you please answer the following: Why is it that wheat held around the \$1.12 mark for about a month before crashing time, and as soon as the first steam train blew on a threshing outfit, it dropped about 15 cents a bushel? Is this drop due to overproduction, a sudden decrease in population or to a sudden decrease in the price of flour? The farmer would like to know how to command a price as well as how to produce the crop. He is like the taxpayer, not so much interested in paying the tax as knowing what becomes of the tax after it is paid, but so much after knowing how to produce, as he is in knowing how to get the prices. One hundred barrels of corn at \$4.00 is worth more to him than 200 barrels for the same money."

So far as I have been able to observe, the price of wheat this year has not been due to overproduction, for certainly in the best wheat-growing section of Maryland the crop has been unusually short, and I hear of crops turning out ten to fifteen bushels an acre where the farmers have been accustomed to make from twenty-five to thirty-five bushels. What the crop in the West is I am not fully informed. The greatest problem for the farmers is to find out how to get the

dollar for a dollar's worth of their produce. The speculators know that with every crop grown there are thousands who are compelled to sell as soon as possible, and the practice is to depress the market by all sorts of unfavorable rumors of a great overproduction, in order to get hold of the product at as low a price as possible, and after the bulk of the crop is in the market, the speculators advance the price, so that finally the consumer pays a dollar for what the farmer gets 35 cents, as one of our farm papers puts it.

It seems to me that about the only way is through complete organization of the farmers, and the enabling them to get money, as merchants can get it, and hold their crops for the real and proper influence of the law of supply and demand. The prospect of free wheat may have had an effect on the price, as there may be a rush of Canadian spring wheat on the market, and the tariff seems to be constructed mainly for the benefit of the consumer and the lowering of the cost of living, rather than for the protection of the farmer. But this may be made up to him by the long free list of things he has to buy. In fact, the question is the very difficult to give a satisfactory reply to. The speculators are mainly responsible, I think, for the depression of the grain market just now, as they want to get hold of the grain. It is the unorganized condition of the farmers that gives the speculators an advantage.

Harvesting Peas, Crimson Clover.

"I notice in one of the farm papers where you say that in order to use the pea thresher the peas must be planted in rows. How wide apart should the rows be? Then about crimson clover, will it grow well on land that has not had clover on it? Will it have to be inoculated, and can this inoculation be made by scattering seed from another crimson clover field? The rows should be about three feet apart in order for the pea harvester to work well. The machine will do the work well, for I have followed it in the field and have seen it gather, thresh and clean the peas about as fast as twenty hands could pick them by hand. You can inoculate the crimson clover seed with one of the artificial cultures. But if you have access to a field where crimson clover has done well, the soil from that field scattered at rate of about a barrel an acre will inoculate the seed very well. But in doing this you should harrow it in at once, for if left exposed to the sun the bacteria may be destroyed.

Rabbit-Foot Clover.

Another correspondent sends specimens of the little gray-headed clover, trifolium arvense, or rabbit-foot clover. This clover seems to be growing in new localities, for I have had dozens of samples sent me for identification. It is found that where this clover has spread the soil with it has been very plentiful on sandy soils, and is known here as winter clover, since it starts in the fall just as crimson clover does, and is of the same annual habit. Being a legume, it is of course to some extent a soil improver, but its growth is generally light except on very strong land. But it will grow on any land that is not too and very here no inoculation is needed for crimson clover, since the winter clover carries the same bacterium.

Destroying Weeds.

"Please tell me how to rid fence rows and odd corners of weeds that make seed and give trouble. Is there any chemical that will kill all vegetation in such places? The best way to keep fence rows clear of weeds is simply to not allow them to grow and seed. If you have straight fences this can be done best with the mowing machine cutting them off before they bloom and keep them thus cut. The mowing machine is the best tool I know of. If you have the old worn fences, the work will have to be done in the more expensive way by hand. A saturated solution of copper sulphate of iron applied to the vegetation will destroy many weeds, especially such as hairy foliage, and will not destroy grasses or small grain. It would be rather expensive on a large scale.

Street Sweepings vs. Stable Manure.

"From Bristol, Va., I can pay the sweepings from paved streets for about half the price of stable manure. These sweepings are mainly the horse droppings, and I can get them daily. The stable manure, of course, has much of the urine that is lacking in the sweepings, but it is always full of shavings and just what I would prefer for truck crops."

I use the street sweepings mainly because it is hard to get stable manure, and I find that the sweepings, with a good mixture of acid phosphate and potash, do very well on my light sandy soil. I would prefer the sweepings to stable manure, in which shavings or sawdust are used as bedding. One advantage of the street sweepings is that the material is fine and devoid of the coarse refuse in the manure. Of course the mineral matters are largely in the urine, but using acid phosphate and potash liberally I can more than make up for this. I do not care to get the sweepings daily but to get them from the dump and get the material that has been there for some time and rotted down. This is much more than the fresh sweepings, and is simply a black mass, and one load of more than two loads of the fresh sweepings. The only difficulty here is that they put the black muck from cleaning the catch basins of the sewers on the dump, and I do not care much for that, and try to avoid it when having the material hauled. You will find the sweepings valuable when supplemented with acid phosphate, as your soil is not so rich in acid of potash as ours is.

Sweet Potatoes from Cuttings.

"In setting cuttings of sweet potatoes, is it best to put one and a half in the ground or double the cutting up, and put the middle in the ground? My father always made cuttings of three eyes and put two of them in the ground, and he said that more would grow in the ground than in the joints in the ground. It will depend on the purpose for which the potato cuttings are used. If to grow a late crop of table potatoes I set in July cuttings of three joints, and put all in the ground but the tip of the cutting. For growing a lot of small potatoes, known here as slips for bedding the next spring, take cuttings about a yard long and set the cutting around the hand and then put the whole cut, but the tip, into the hill. This is done in August, and every fall will make little potatoes that are far better for bedding than the little ones culled from the early crop, for they do not keep better in winter than the early ones, but make more and to the bushel than any others. These are very generally sold on the Baltimore market in spring under the name of Deal's Island slips, for bedding.

SENSATION COMES TO TOWN

Persons Convicted of Accepting Bribes From Krupps Are Unimportant.

Berlin, August 6.—The sensational charge that officials of the Prussian War Office had accepted bribes from the Krupp Company in return for military documents which were made in the Reichstag last April by the Socialist deputy, Dr. Karl Liebknecht, came to a rather tame ending to-day with the conviction by court-martial of seven unimportant persons connected with the ordnance board, of whom the highest ranked only as junior lieutenants. The convicted men were charged specifically with betraying military secrets, the acceptance of bribes and insubordination.

Lieutenant Tillan was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. Lieutenants Schleuter and Hines, each to four months' and Lieutenant Hoge to serve forty-three days in a fortress. Tillan, Schleuter and Hines in addition lose their commands. Chief Clerk Pfeiffer of the ordnance department, noncommissioned Officer Schmidt, respectively, received sentences of six months and two and a half months' imprisonment, while non-commissioned Officer Droege must serve three weeks' light arrest.

All the convicted men, with the exception of Droege, gave notice of appeal.

The court's decision asserts that the most unfortunate feature of the case is the unjust suspicion cast upon German officers and the army. The defendants, it says, were correct in believing that the Krupp Company possesses secrets which cannot be intrusted to any other firm. This was no excuse, however, for their criminal acts. It added that the previous good character of the defendants and the fortunate fact that no secrets had reached foreign hands would be considered as mitigation of their offenses.

HAVE ISSUED NO ORDERS FOR RACE SEGREGATION

Department Officials Make Statement Based on Resolution of Inquiry Pending in Senate.

Washington, August 6.—No formal orders for the segregation of colored and white employees have been enforced in any government department in Washington, according to statements made to-day by department officials. The question came up in connection with the introduction in the Senate last week of a resolution by Senator Clapp providing for an inquiry to determine if such an order had been issued for the postal service.

The chief clerks of different departments, including the Post-Office Department, declared to-day that no such orders have been issued. They added that as a general thing it was customary for colored employees to keep more or less to themselves, but that no formal action had ever been taken. Senator Clapp said to-day he knew nothing of the facts in the case, but that it had been reported to him that the races were segregated in the postal service. He added that he expected speedy action on his resolution, and hoped that the Senate House Committee would investigate the question.

A particularly large number of colored people are employed in the Treasury department, but it was said there to-day that there is no formal segregation except in regard to lavatory facilities. In the Department of Agriculture very few colored people are employed except as laborers, and therefore the question never arises.

The chief clerk of the Interior Department said no formal segregation orders have been issued there. The question has never come up in a definite manner in any of the departments, it was said, and no ruling has ever been required.

According to government officials, the question is one which generally regulates itself. The colored employees usually occupy desks or chairs some what apart from the other employees, it was said, although in many cases even this rule does not obtain.

CHATHAM TO VOTE ON LICENSE TO-DAY

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Chatham, Va., August 6.—An election to-morrow will decide whether Chatham will or will not license the sale of whiskey during the next two years. This election is the outcome of granting licenses to the Robert Porter Brewing Company, which at the May term of Circuit Court applications for license to sell whiskey was refused, every business man with few exceptions saloons is \$1,000. The campaign has been very quiet, and judging by the liquor question has always played a prominent part in the "dry" will win by a safe majority. One hundred and thirty is the voting strength, of which the "wets" claim fifty sure. Several young men will vote for the first time, and the "wets" are claiming that they will get a majority of these.

Negro Murderer Arrested.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Greensboro, N. C., August 6.—A negro, the negro who shot and killed Deputy Sheriff Bain Saturday evening, was arrested to-day after a four-day hunt by the officers in the outskirts of Greensboro, Forsyth County. He did not resist the officers, and admitted that he did the shooting. He was taken in jail here, but the sheriff may take him to Raleigh to prevent threatened lynching.

Ben Hazel, a Negro, Wanted Here for Wife Murder.

Ben Hazel, a negro wanted here for wife murder four years ago, was placed in jail to-day. He was arrested in Coatesville, Pa., a few days ago, and four years of dodging officers. This makes the third murder case for the next term of court.

Greatest Meat Enters.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Washington, August 6.—Statistics made public to-day by the Department of Agriculture show that the United States is to be the greatest meat eating nation in the world. According to these figures, Americans ate during 1909, 162.20 pounds of meat per capita per annum. Second and third places are awarded to Germany and France.

Prowler Is Killed.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Martinsville, Va., August 6.—Sam Berry Harrison, a colored man, was shot and killed about midnight last night by Luke Dodson, colored. The shooting occurred at the home of the Dodson woman on Grassy Creek, about six miles from here. Harrison, who was about fifty years of age, was prowling about the woman's house. He was ordered to leave, but failed to do so, and fired a pistol at him, not knowing who he was, and this morning found him dead in her yard. The woman will be given a hearing here to-morrow.

Here's How to Solve a Contest Picture:

Suppose a picture shows a horse eating grass out in a field. Well, that picture might represent some such title as "Turned Out to Pasture," or "In the Field," or something similar. Open your catalogue and turn to the book titles beginning with the letter "T." See if there is such a title there as "Turned Out to Pasture." And test out each possible title in the same way. That's how to hunt down the correct title.

Ten of the Correct Titles Have a Star Marked Opposite Them in the Catalogue

In the catalogue there are ten of the titles marked with a star. These ten starred titles fit ten of the 77 pictures in this Booklovers' Game. Thus if you have a catalogue you only have 67 titles to find yourself.

The catalogue aids you in every way. With the catalogue you can easily solve all the pictures and without any trouble. All of the 77 correct titles are to be found in the catalogue and ten of the titles are marked for you with a star.

This is the way to solve a picture: Suppose a picture represents a ship on fire at sea. Suppose, also, that you haven't the least idea what title it can represent. Well, study out the picture. Turn to your catalogue; see if a book is listed such as "The Fire at Sea" or "The Burning of the Ship" or something like that. Keep at it and use your brains, for remember that all the correct titles are in this catalogue. You'll find lots of fun in solving the pictures, and you can make your fun pay you heavy dividends.

With the catalogue you get pictures Nos. 1 to 35 Free. So there is no reason why you should not enter this great game to-day. You get the first 35 pictures Free with the catalogue and ten of the 77 titles are marked for you with a star. Start to-day; you can win. You had better get a catalogue at once.

CONTEST EDITOR'S ::::OFFICIAL::: Booklovers' Catalogue



What Book Does This Picture Represent?
Write Title and Name of Author in Form Below

Title

Author

Your Name

Street and Number

City or Town

TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES, 77. Contest began July 27th. Each day a different picture appears in this space. Cut them out. Save them until the last picture appears on October 11th. Don't send in partial lists. Wait until you have all the answers to the 77. Read Rules, Daily Story and Special Announcements in another part of this paper. It will help you win a prize. Extra pictures and coupons of any date that have appeared may be had at 2c. Enter to-day without registering your name. Merely Save Pictures and Coupons as they appear.

A four-page pamphlet, giving all details of this contest, was printed in this newspaper several days ago. If you did not see it, send a stamp or call at the office.

The principal features in connection with this contest are copyrighted by the Booklovers' Contest Co., San Francisco, Cal.

Here is a portion of one of the pages of the Catalogue, showing how the titles are listed in alphabetical order. One of the catalogue certificates, redeemable for five free pictures, is shown also. The 77 titles which the 77 pictures represent are contained in this catalogue, and YOU can find them there.

BOOKLOVERS' CATALOGUE CERTIFICATE
Number 1
Good for Pictures and Coupons
This certificate will be accepted by this newspaper in the Contest now being conducted in exchange for the FIVE PICTURES and COUPONS stated above.
REDEEMABLE ONLY AFTER THE ABOVE FIVE PICTURES AND COUPONS HAVE BEEN FURNISHED IN OUR PAPER.
NOTE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE.